

161
2839

TRANSMITTAL LETTER (General - Patent Pending)	Docket No. 14998-255
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In Re Application Of: Akito Nishimura, Toru Arikawa, Yasuhiro Tamaki

MAR 3 1 2005

Serial No.
09/720,235

Filing Date
December 20, 2000

Examiner
Javaid H. Nasri

Group Art Unit
2839

Title: "OPTICAL FERRULE AND MOLDING METHOD THEREFOR, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR
USING THIS OPTICAL FERRULE:

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

Transmittal Sheet/IDS Statement under CFR 1.97(e)
PTO-1449 form/ five[5] references/ EP Search Report
Certificate of First Class Mail/Confirmatory postcard

in the above identified application.

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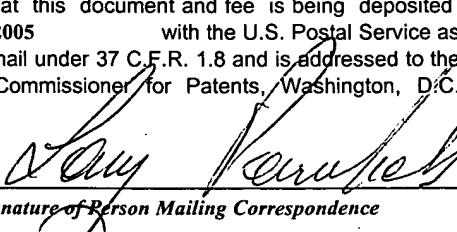


Signature

Dated: March 29, 2005

Daniel Basov, Reg. No. 42,303
CHADBOURNE & PARKE LLP
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112
1-212-408-2324

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20231.



Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Tammy Parubchenko

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.
14998-255

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D. Basov

Signature

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30 Rockefeller Plaza
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Tammy Parubchenko
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Tammy Parubchenko

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Docket No.
14998-255

In Re Application Of: **Nishimura, et. al.**

MAR 3 1 2005

Filing Date

12/20/2000

Examiner

Javaid H. Nasri

Group Art Unit

2839

Invention: "OPTICAL FERRULE AND MOLDING METHOD THEREFOR, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR USING THIS OPTICAL FERRULE"

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This is a statement under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) in the above-identified application.

Check applicable statement herebelow:

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

- Each item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2)

- No item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned person, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the accompanying information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

D. Basov

Signature

Dated: **March 29, 2005**

**Daniel Basov, Reg. No. 42,303
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1-212-408-5275**

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Tammy Parubchenko
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Tammy Parubchenko
Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

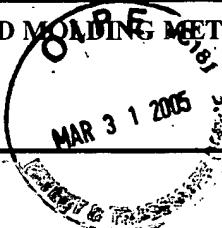
cc:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): Akito Nishimura, Toru Arikawa, Yasuhiro Tamaki

Docket No.

14998-255

Serial No.
09/720,235Filing Date
December 20, 2000Examiner
Javaid H. NasriGroup Art Unit
2839Invention: "OPTICAL FERRULE AND MOLDING METHOD THEREFOR, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR
USING THIS OPTICAL FERRULE"Transmittal Sheet/IDS Statement under CFR 1.97(e)
PTO-1449 form/ five[5] references/ EP Search Report
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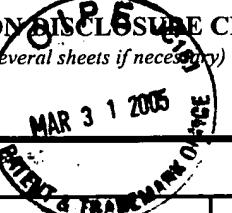
(Date)

Tammy Parubchenko

(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				Docket Number (Optional) 14998-255		Application Number 09/720,235		
				Applicant(s) Nishimura, et. al.				
				Filing Date 12/20/2000	Group Art Unit 2839			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
1.		JP 02 016021	01/19/1990	JAPAN				
2.		JP 56 074212	06/19/1981	JAPAN				
3.		JP 57 067906	04/24/1982	JAPAN				
4.		JP 61 137109	06/24/1986	JAPAN				
OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>								
	5.	Satake, et. al., " US CONEC SPREADS MT CONNECTOR INTO NORTH AMERICAN MARKETS" . NTT REVIEW, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, TOKYO JAPAN. Vol. 5, No. 4, July 1, 1993, Pages 82-89.						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				



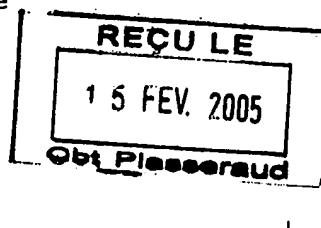
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Europäisches
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abteilung

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Patent Office
Branch at
The Hague
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La Haye
Division de la
recherche

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75440 Paris Cedex 09
FRANCE



Datum/Date	10.02.2005
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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. BEP000282EBU	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 00917381.6-2216/JP0002582
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Fujikura Ltd.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the supplementary partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.
This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.
See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention

Application Number
EP 00 91 7381

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 155 (M-0954), 26 March 1990 (1990-03-26) -& JP 02 016021 A (MITSUBISHI CABLE IND LTD), 19 January 1990 (1990-01-19) * abstract; figures 2,6 *	1,14,15	G02B6/38 B29D11/00
X	TOSHIAKI SATAKE: "US CONEC SPREADS MT CONNECTOR INTO NORTH AMERICAN MARKETS" NTT REVIEW, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, TOKYO, JP, vol. 5, no. 4, 1 July 1993 (1993-07-01), pages 82-89, XP000385448 ISSN: 0915-2334 * section 2.2, Figs. 3(a), 4(a,b) *	1-10, 14-24	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 005, no. 138 (P-078), 2 September 1981 (1981-09-02) -& JP 56 074212 A (FUJITSU LTD), 19 June 1981 (1981-06-19) * abstract; figures 1,2,5 *	1	
		-/-	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G02B B29D B29C
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
1 The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		19 January 2005	Spott, T
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



European Patent
Office

SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 00 91 7381

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 006, no. 148 (P-133), 7 August 1982 (1982-08-07) & JP 57 067906 A (NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH CORP <NTT>; others: 01), 24 April 1982 (1982-04-24) * abstract * ----- A PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 330 (P-514), 11 November 1986 (1986-11-11) & JP 61 137109 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND LTD; others: 01), 24 June 1986 (1986-06-24) * abstract * -----	1,15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10, 14-24

A ferrule with a concave portion formed such that a flash resulting from the moulding process could hinder the ferrule from being inserted into a housing.

2. claims: 11-14

A ferrule with a concave portion formed for being used as an identification means for the properties of the ferrule.

1. The common concept linking the two subjects is a ferrule having a concave portion. However, ferrules with a concave portion are known (a concave portion being a very common shape). Document D1=JP-02016021 (see Fig. 2 and the abstract), for example, discloses a ferrule having concave portions formed at the front and rear side faces of a flange (11).

2.1 The further features of subject 1 relate to the positioning of the concave portion in the flange portion. The problem to be solved by the inventions of subject 1 can be construed as: How to design the ferrule in order to avoid the formation of a flash in a position where the flash could be an obstacle to inserting the ferrule into a housing, the flash resulting from the moulding process and being formed in the vicinity to the gate of the mould, i.e. in the vicinity to the location where the resin is injected into the mould.

2.2 The further features of subject 2 relate to the formation of a concave portion in the ferrule, the concave portion being used for marking the ferrule with respect to its features (material, number of fibres, etc). Therefore, the concave portion must be placed in a position where it is visible to the user and its features (such as its shape) must be chosen such that it can be used for coding the properties of the ferrule.

3. There thus exists neither a common concept nor common or corresponding special technical features forming a contribution over the prior art in the sense of Article 82 and Rule 30 EPC, such that the requirements of the EPC with respect to unity of invention are not fulfilled.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 91 7381

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

19-01-2005

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 02016021	A	19-01-1990	NONE			
JP 56074212	A	19-06-1981	JP JP	1157338 C 57046043 B		15-07-1983 01-10-1982
JP 57067906	A	24-04-1982	NONE			
JP 61137109	A	24-06-1986	NONE			